

Engineering Proposal for Conducting a Pedestrian Impact Statement

Objective

The objective of this task is to prepare a Pedestrian Impact Statement for the proposed Silver Spring Library to evaluate the effect of the development on pedestrian safety and mobility. The proposed library will be located on Fenton Street between Wayne Avenue and Bonifant Street in Montgomery County, Maryland. Procedures followed in this task may be used in the future by Montgomery County to develop a policy for conducting subsequent pedestrian impact statements.

Scope of Services

Improving pedestrian conditions through redevelopment presents an opportunity to make walking in the surrounding area more efficient and safe, which may encourage more people to walk. To capitalize on this opportunity, Montgomery County requires submitted applications for development plans to include a Pedestrian Impact Statement as a condition of a Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) to ensure developers assess the need to incorporate pedestrian improvements which mitigate the impacts of proposed developments. These requirements are detailed in the Local Area Transportation Review and Policy Area Mobility Review Guidelines from 2009.

The commonly-assumed 1/4-mile “maximum” walking distance is often used as a general guideline when considering pedestrian access to various developments. Applying this rule, in consultation with MCDOT engineering staff, to the proposed Silver Spring Library development resulted in a scope to assess pedestrian safety and access at the following intersections and connecting sidewalk links:

- Fenton Street and Wayne Avenue
- Fenton Street and Ellsworth Drive
- Fenton Street and Bonifant Street
- Bonifant Street and Hankin Street and Grove Street
- Wayne Avenue and Cedar Street

The following intersections will not be evaluated as part of this effort since pedestrian safety and mobility were assessed during a recent pedestrian road safety audit:

- Georgia Avenue and Wayne Avenue
- Georgia Avenue and Bonifant Street

The sidewalk links between these intersections and the proposed library will be assessed (Wayne Avenue and Bonifant Street east of Georgia Avenue). Particular attention will be given to the potential for pedestrian trips to be generated by the parking garage located on Wayne Avenue just north of the proposed library.